



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

January 6, 2010

S. 782

National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring Program Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on December 16, 2009*

SUMMARY

S. 782 would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million over the 2010-2014 period for a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) program to monitor active volcanoes and to enhance the agency's ability to warn the public of potentially harmful volcanic activity. Based on information from USGS and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$69 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$6 million after 2014. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 782 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 782 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010- 2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	15	15	15	15	15	75
Estimated Outlays	10	14	15	15	15	69

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted early in calendar year 2010 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar USGS activities.

S. 782 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million a year over the 2010-2014 period for the USGS to establish a program to monitor active volcanoes and to provide warnings to protect individuals and property from the harmful effects of volcanic activity. The bill would require USGS to designate a national volcano watch office and data collection center. The bill also would require the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a management plan for establishing and operating the program and to submit an annual report to the Congress describing program activities. Finally, the bill would establish a grant program to support research and monitoring of volcanic activity. Based on information from USGS and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$69 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$6 million after 2014.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 782 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. State agencies and universities would benefit from grants and cooperative agreements in the bill for research and monitoring of volcanic activity. Any costs to those entities would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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